

## Tips on How to Transplant and Propagate Native Plants for the Ixia's Plant Sale

by Walter Bryant, Ixia member

All members are asked to PLEASE donate native plants (from your yard?) potted up in 4", 1 gallon or 3 gallon pots (provided by Ixia) for Ixia's plant sale at Native Park.

### Potting Mix

- Any good potting mix such as Earth Nourish Planting Mix sold at Ace Hardware
- Can use native plant soil; could add perlite to loosen soil
- Best to not use Miracle Grow potting mix as has too much peat and fertilizer
- Don't add compost to potting mix
- Lightly moisten potting mix with spray of water; Keep mix slightly moist while transplanting

### Transplanting rooted plant into a pot

- Select pot slightly larger than root ball
- Best to use clean, debris-free pot
- Fill pot  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  full of potting mix
- Using a hand trowel or shovel, slice down into soil several inches from plant stem in a circle around stem. Gently lift plant with as many roots attached as possible.
- Position root ball in pot; shake to settle roots; add soil to cover all roots; tap to settle
- Spray gently with water to help settle roots. Add more soil if needed.
- Can plant 2-3 small plants into pot (customer gets more plants this way!)
- 4" pots can be placed in zip lock bag, which is a mini-greenhouse
- Set plant aside in part shady spot; check for moisture; don't let dry out
- Two weeks later give plant a 'boost' with fish emulsion or sea weed fertilizer (Jack's All Purpose Fertilizer has micronutrients; sold at Plant Ranch on Beach Blvd)
- Can transplant to larger size if roots begin to outgrow current pot
- One month before plant sale, 'harden off' plant by moving into full sun (if it requires full sun)

## Cuttings

- Can attempt - but root ball MUST be well developed by plant sale date - April 16
- Clip cuttings from soft outer stems of plant
- Dip cut into rooting hormone (Rootone)
- Pot up as above; using same potting mix;
- Place in zip-lock bag and place in part shady spot
- Two weeks later give gentle 'boost' with above mentioned fertilizers
- 'Harden off' plant as above (if needs full sun to grow)

## Dividing perennials

- Many native plant perennials can be divided every 3-4 years
- Follow same procedure for transplanting
- Except when remove plant from soil with root ball intact - carefully split plant with roots into 2-3 separate plants using hand trowel or shovel. Replant into pots.

## General Tips

DO NOT dig up plants from the wild (It's illegal)

Pot size determines price; Ixia asks members to PLEASE use 4", 1 gal or 3 gal for this reason

Best to wearing sterile gloves as "Pathogens are in your yard"

Contact Linda Schneider ([lrs409@comcast.net](mailto:lrs409@comcast.net)) with questions if a plant is native (or not)

Walter Bryant ([Walter.Bryant@comcast.net](mailto:Walter.Bryant@comcast.net)) can be contacted with questions about potting plants for sale

THANK YOU FOR DONATING PLANTS (FUND RAISER FOR NATIVE PARK).

AND, PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP OUT!!!